Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited, allotted 706 retail outlets (petrol pumps) in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Out of this, in 686 cases the OMCs sought 'no objection certificates' (NOC) from District Collectors in the State.

(c) In order to establish a retail outlet, OMCs have to obtain NOCs from the District Collector/Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police, as the case may be, and a licence from the Department of Explosives, Government of India, for storage and sale of the products. If the retail outlet location is situated on a National Highway, a separate approval needs to be taken from the National Highway Authority of India.

(d) As reported by the OMCs, no complaint about violation of criteria for setting up retail outlets in the State of Andhra Pradesh has been received by them during the last year, i.e., 2004-05.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (d) above.

Obstacles to Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

†681. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that General Electric Company, America has refused to provide LNG related vital equipment to Tehran;

(b) if so, to what extent it will adversely affect Indo-Iran-gas-pipeline project;

(c) whether Government have contemplated any alternative plan under the circumstances; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) There were news reports to the effect that General Electric (GE) company has refused to supply crucial equipments for the LNG project to Iran on account of US sanctions on Iran, and that, as a consequence, Iran may not be in a position to fulfil its commitments of supplying the agreed LNG quantities to India.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have a Sale-Purchase Agreement (SPA) with the National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC), which was concluded on 13 June 2005 in Tehran, for the import of 5 MMTPA of LNG, beginning from the last quarter of 2009. The Iranian authorities have re-affirmed that the agreement with India on LNG supply is valid and will be fully implemented.

Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project is completely separate from the LNG project. The discussion of the Government of India with the Governments of Iran and Pakistan on this project are progressing satisfactorily. The reported refusal of GE company to supply crucial equipments for LNG project is not related to the gas pipeline project.

Adulteration in petroleum products

682. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Anti-Adulteration Cell for petroleum products has been wound up in 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) what alternative steps have been taken to check adulteration in petroleum products;

(d) whether the alternative steps have proved more effective to checking adulteration in petroleum products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Anti-Adulteration Cell (AAC), was set up in March 2001 under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG). It was found to be ineffective in its functioning on account of the possible involvement of some of its officers who are under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for undesirable activities. Therefore, a one-man committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas was set up in April, 2004 to conduct an extensive review of the working of the AAC. The report showed that the AAC, with its existing structure and functions, could not